

DEC 21 1962

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-R

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

FOIAb3b

TOTAL IS 1114, NOT 1113, COMMITTEE HEAD SAYS

One Missing Man Could Be Cause For Delay of Prisoner Releases

By DON MACLEAN

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 21.

The whereabouts of only one man could be one of the things delaying release of the Cuban prisoners, according to Enrique Llaca, director of the Cuban Families Committee.

In an exclusive interview, Sr. Llaca said his committee believes the total number of prisoners is 1114, not 1113, as generally reported. Two members of Sr. Llaca's committee, Virginia Betancourt and Alvaro Sanchez Jr., are in Havana with New York Atty. James B. Donovan, who heads the negotiating team.

NO TREE

Sr. Llaca, a tall, balding, graying man, seemed somewhat bitter as he talked in his home. His son, Enrique Jr., 27, a lawyer with a wife and two children of his own,

is one of the Bay of Pigs prisoners.

The only signs of Christmas in the Llaca home were three Christmas cards lying on a table. No tree. No decorations.

"There will be no Christmas until the prisoners are released," Sr. Llaca said.

"I haven't said anything about one man being unaccounted for before, but now I have decided it should be said," Sr. Llaca said.

According to figures he tabulated from a roster of the original expedition and of those captured and tried, one would, indeed, appear to be missing. Sr. Llaca has not determined the missing man's name.

"Another thing that should be said is that this cost of \$53 million, or \$62 million, however you figure it, is our punishment for delay," Sr. Llaca said.

"The price would have been only \$20 million, had we given in to Castro's original demand

for \$26 million in tractors. We had the Italian Fiat people ready to supply them for only \$20 million, with 10 years to pay. But political pressure got that.

"Another penalty of course, is that the prisoners now have been detained for 20 months. At least the prisoners know we are close to getting them out," Sr. Llaca said. "Our women's committee in Havana, led by Berta Barreto, was allowed to send food in paper bags to the prisoners the other day. Messages were written on the bags."

Finishing Touches

HAVANA, Dec. 21 (UPI) — New York attorney James B. Donovan put finishing touches today on lists of medicines, drugs and food offered in exchange for the Cuban prisoners.

He was expected to meet Premier Castro sometime today to show him the completed lists of about \$53 million in goods, revised as a result of his hurried Wednesday trip to Miami.